Re-Alignment of NH-31

2355. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that re-alignment of NH-31 from Falakata to Pundibari in Cooch Behar, West Bengal remains incomplete because of the non-completion of a major Reinforced Concrete Cement (RCC) bridge on the Torsa river;

(b) whether it is a fact that State Government of West Bengal has forwarded a revised estimate to the Union Government seeking timely completion of the project; and

(c) the steps which are being taken by Central Government to ensure early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Action has been initiated for obtaining the approval of the competent authority for the 2nd revised cost estimate of this project.

Highways in Gujarat

2356. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from different States which are under consideration to convert roads of respective States into National Highways, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is lagging for behind, so far as National Highways' length is concerned; and

(c) the status of the proposal of Gujarat for the conversion of roads into National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) In February, 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms. of State roads as National Highways including 410 kms. in Gujarat. Thereafter, this Ministry has received another 107 proposals from various State Governments which include 19 proposals from Gujarat for declaration of National Highways.

(b) The declaration of any road as a National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs in a particular State but on several other considerations including traffic needs, inter-se priority on all India basis and availability of resources.

(c) It is premature to indicate any time frame for further declaration of National Highways.

Registration of sea going vessels

2357. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director-General of Shipping is the sole authority for registration of sea going vessels;

(b) if so, what is the meaning of registration;

(c) the time taken by the Director-General, Shipping to register ships and other vessels;

(d) the number of such applications which are presently pending with the Director-General, Shipping in Mumbai; and

(e) the details of other applications pending for more than fifteen days with the Director-General, Shipping from shipping or other maritime vessels, fishing trawlers and barges, with names of all such companies?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per Section 24 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, at each of the ports of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, the Principal Officer of the Mercantile Marine Department and at other major ports, the Surveyor in Charge, Mercantile Marine Department, function as Registrar of Indian ships at that port and register ocean going ships, fishing trawlers and non-propelled barges under the Merchant Shipping act, 1958 and the Coasting Vessel Act, 1838. The Director-General maintains the central registry for records for the vessels registered under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 only. The in land vessels and the fishing trawlers are registered by the State authorities and the Maritime Boards of the Coastal States concerned.